

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing the adhesion of microorganisms to the surface of the skin and/or the mucous membranes ~~without requiring the presence of antibiotic, bactericidal or fungicidal agents~~, said skin and/or mucous membranes comprising a disruption of the ecological balance among resident flora, said method comprising contacting a composition devoid of antibiotic, bacterial or fungicidal agents with said skin and/or mucous membranes, said composition comprising, as an active ingredient, in a cosmetic composition or pharmaceutical composition, an effective quantity of at least one fatty substance free of carbohydrate units, having a melting point of less than 35°C and having an interfacial tension of between 6 and 27 mN/m, such that adhesion of microorganisms to the surface of the skin and/or mucous membranes is reduced.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 13, wherein the active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of fatty acid triglycerides, vegetable oils and fatty esters comprising one or more linear or branched chains, comprising 8 to 30 carbon atoms.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 13, wherein the active ingredient is selected from caprylic/capric acid triglycerides, wheatgerm oil, calendula oil, castor oil, olive oil, avocado oil, sweet almond oil, groundnut oil, jojoba oil, sesame

oil, apricot oil, sunflower oil, macadamia oil, shea butter, hexyl laurate, decyl oleate, octyl dodecyl neopentanoate, isopropyl myristate, isopropyl isostearate, isopropyl stearate, dioctyl adipate, isononyl isononanoate, tartrate of branched C₁₂-C₁₃ dialcohols, octoxyglyceryl palmitate, octoxyglyceryl behenate and/or mixtures thereof, isopropyl palmitate and di(C₁₂-C₁₃ alkyl) malate.

16. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 13, wherein the active ingredient is selected from sesame oil, shea butter, octoxyglyceryl palmitate, octoxyglyceryl behenate, dioctyl adipate, apricot stone oil, tartrate of branched C₁₂-C₁₃ dialcohols and/or mixtures thereof, isopropyl palmitate and di(C₁₂-C₁₃ alkyl) malate.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 13, wherein the active ingredient is present in a quantity ranging from 0.1% to 100% of the total weight of the composition.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 17, wherein the active ingredient is present in a quantity ranging from 0.5% to 50% of the total weight of the composition.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 17, wherein the active ingredient is present in a quantity ranging from 5% to 25% of the total weight of the composition.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 13, wherein the composition is provided in the form of a lotion, a gel, a serum, an emulsion or a dispersion of lipid vesicles.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13 for the cosmetic treatment of the skin and/or the mucous membranes.

22. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic method according to claim 21 comprising topical application of at least one fatty substance free of carbohydrate units, having a melting point of less than 35° C and having an interfacial tension of between 6 and 27 mN/m as active ingredient in a cosmetic composition intended to reduce body odours and/or intended for body hygiene health care.

23. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic method according to claim 21 comprising topical application of at least one fatty substance free of carbohydrate units, having a melting point of less than 35° C and having an interfacial tension of between 6 and 27 mN/m as active ingredient in a cosmetic composition intended to combat comedones and/or dandruff.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13 for the pharmaceutical treatment of the skin and/or the mucous membranes to combat mycosis and/or acne.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein the disruption of ecological balance among resident flora is caused by at least one microorganism selected from the group consisting of *Propionibacterium acnes* and *Pytirosprium ovale*.

26. (Previously Presented) A method of reducing the adhesion of pathogenic exogenous microorganisms to the surface of the skin and/or the mucous membranes without requiring the presence of antibiotic, bactericidal or fungicidal agents, said method comprising contacting said surface of the skin and/or the mucous membranes comprising said pathogenic exogenous microorganisms with a composition comprising, as an active ingredient, in a cosmetic composition or pharmaceutical composition, an effective quantity of at least one fatty substance free of carbohydrate units, having a melting point of less than 35°C and having an interfacial tension of between 6 and 27 mN/m, such that adhesion of said pathogenic exogenous microorganisms to the surface of the skin and/or mucous membranes is reduced.

27. (Previously Presented) A method of reducing infections of the surface of the skin and/or the mucous membranes, and/or inflammations of the surface of the skin and/or the mucous membranes caused by microorganisms, without requiring the presence of antibiotic, bactericidal or fungicidal agents, said method comprising contacting infections of the surface of the skin and/or the mucous membranes or inflammation of the surface of the skin and/or the mucous membranes caused by microorganisms with a composition comprising, as an active ingredient, in a cosmetic composition or pharmaceutical composition, an effective quantity of at least one fatty substance free of carbohydrate units, having a melting point of less than 35°C and having an interfacial tension of between 6 and 27 mN/m, such that said infections and/or inflammations are reduced.

28. (Withdrawn) A method of reducing the incidence of at least one of folliculitis, red blotches, spots, pruritis, aphtha, impetigo, mycosis, acne, comedones, dandruff and furuncles, on the surface of the skin and/or the mucous membranes, without requiring the presence of antibiotic, bactericidal or fungicidal agents, said at least one of folliculitis, red blotches, spots, pruritis, aphtha, impetigo, mycosis, acne, comedones, dandruff and furuncles being the result of microorganisms on said surface of the skin and/or the mucous membranes, said method comprising contacting said surface of the skin and/or mucous membranes comprising said at least one of folliculitis, red blotches, spots, pruritis, aphtha, impetigo, mycosis, acne, comedones, dandruff and furuncles, with a composition comprising, as an active ingredient, in a cosmetic composition or pharmaceutical composition, an effective quantity of at least one fatty substance free of carbohydrate units, having a melting point of less than 35°C and having an interfacial tension of between 6 and 27 mN/m, such that the incidence of said at least one of folliculitis, red blotches, spots, pruritis, aphtha, impetigo, mycosis, acne, comedones, dandruff and furuncles, on the surface of the skin and/or the mucous membranes is reduced.

29. (Withdrawn) A method according to any one of Claims 26-28, wherein the active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of fatty acid triglycerides, vegetable oils and fatty esters comprising one or more linear or branched chains, comprising 8 to 30 carbon atoms.

30. (Withdrawn) A method according to any one of Claims 26-28, wherein the active ingredient is selected from caprylic/capric acid triglycerides, wheatgerm oil, calendula oil, castor oil, olive oil, avocado oil, sweet almond oil, groundnut oil, jojoba oil, sesame oil, apricot oil, sunflower oil, macadamia oil, shea butter, hexyl laurate, decyl oleate, octyl dodecyl neopentanoate, isopropyl myristate, isopropyl isostearate, isopropyl stearate, dioctyl adipate, isononyl isononanoate, tartrate of branched C₁₂-C₁₃ dialcohols, octoxyglyceryl palmitate, octoxyglyceryl behenate and/or mixtures thereof, isopropyl palmitate and di(C₁₂-C₁₃ alkyl) malate.

31. (Withdrawn) A method according to any one of Claims 26-28, wherein the active ingredient is selected from sesame oil, shea butter, octoxyglyceryl palmitate, octoxyglyceryl behenate, dioctyl adipate, apricot stone oil, tartrate of branched C₁₂-C₁₃ dialcohols and/or mixtures thereof, isopropyl palmitate and di(C₁₂-C₁₃ alkyl) malate.

32. (Withdrawn) A method according to any one of Claims 26-28, wherein the active ingredient is present in a quantity ranging from 0.1% to 100% of the total weight of the composition.

33. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 32, wherein the active ingredient is present in a quantity ranging from 0.5% to 50% of the total weight of the composition.

34. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 32, wherein the active ingredient is present in a quantity ranging from 5% to 25% of the total weight of the composition.

35. (Withdrawn) A method according to any one of Claims 26-28, wherein the composition is provided in the form of a lotion, a gel, a serum, an emulsion or a dispersion of lipid vesicles.

36. (Withdrawn) A method according to any one of Claims 26-28, wherein said microorganisms include microorganisms selected from the group consisting of *Propionibacterium acnes* and *Pytiosprum ovale*.